



## Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Helpfulness

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Last week, we were delighted to welcome back to school many of our Reception, Year One and Year Six children. Along with our key worker group, this means that we have around 30% of our children now back in school. We cannot express strongly enough how wonderful it is to see them again and to be taking tentative steps towards some sort of normality. Of course, the majority of children are still learning at home and we are, and will continue to, support them remotely via Seesaw and Tapestry until the time is right for them to return. Unfortunately, the government have not given any indication when it will be safe for the other children to come back to school yet. We have said it before but want to express again how amazed and impressed we are with the commitment and engagement of both children and parents to home learning. We know that it is tough and that families face many challenges when juggling home education with work and family commitments – but you are doing a truly wonderful job; we feel very lucky to be have such supportive families to work with through these challenging times. Thank you.

Thank you also to the parents and carers of those children back in school for supporting all the many measures that we have had to put in place to keep our whole school community safe. Staggered arrivals and departures, our one-way system for entry and exit and keeping everyone in 'bubbles' during the school day are just a few of the adjustments that we have all had to make – and we are pleased to report that all has run smoothly. The children themselves have been amazing! Shackadell and Peartree children in particular are not used to sitting at individual tables, not sharing resources etc. It just shows how resilient young children can be – they just seem to take everything in their stride. Having Year Six back in school means so much; these youngsters have grown and developed during their time at Aston and it is never easy to see them leave in order to embark on the next phase of their education in Secondary School. By being back at school for their final half term they will enjoy plenty of special time together – albeit in rather different circumstances.

Clearly, none of us know what further changes the next few weeks may bring. We absolutely support our families in the decisions that they have made regarding their children returning to school. It is essential that we ensure 'bubbles' do not exceed the maximum number of fifteen pupils. This is why we now require notice of at least a week should you request if your child can return to school. This will allow us to reorganise staffing and teaching spaces to accommodate additional 'bubbles' when necessary. During this difficult time as a small school, there are only so many children we can welcome back, due to our limited teaching space and staff availability. Thank you for your support and understanding.

### **School Reports**

Last week, you will have received your child's school report. Please ensure that the child and parent comment slip is returned to school as soon as possible in order to acknowledge receipt of this important document. Thank you.

Please take care, follow the government guidance and remember:

**STAY ALERT. CONTROL THE VIRUS. SAFE LIVES.**

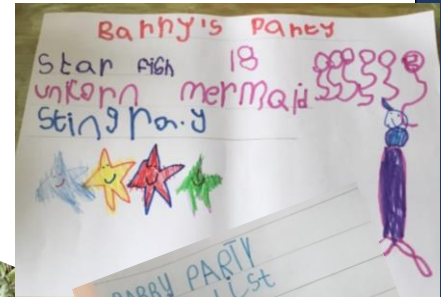
Should you need to contact us, for whatever reason, please use the temporary email address:

**[closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)**

# Shackadell Class

Hi everyone,

Shackadell class have been busy learning all about nature! We have been learning about animals in the ocean and reading a lot of sea stories. We have even written birthday party invitations and lists for 'Barry the fish with fingers'! Since the 1st of June we have been taking part in 30 days wild. We have daily tasks that we complete, even at the weekend! We love learning about nature and the world around us.





# Peartree Class

## HOME LEARNING

Hello Peartree,

It has been so lovely welcoming some of the children back into Peartree and it is still great to receive so many posts from those children working hard at home. Remember whether at school or home, I am here for YOU.

I have been teaching the children in class the same lessons that have been uploaded onto Seesaw and will continue to do this so that everyone can access the curriculum.

This half term, we will continue with the science topics of plants and weather. I have already seen lots of the plants that have been planted by many of you, beginning to grow.

In art and geography, we are looking at India. We will be looking at similarities and differences across many aspects such as day to day living, schools, animals, location and culture to name a few.



INSIDE EVERY CHILD IS  
A RAINBOW WAITING  
TO SHINE

Five weeks left of school to go and  
we have planted seeds of many a kind.  
Day by day we watch them grow,  
waiting to see what we will find.

See you all soon,

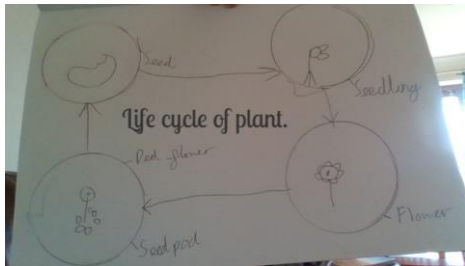
Mrs Baker 



# Orchard Class

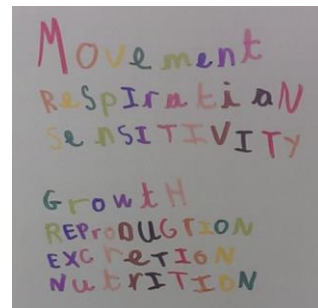
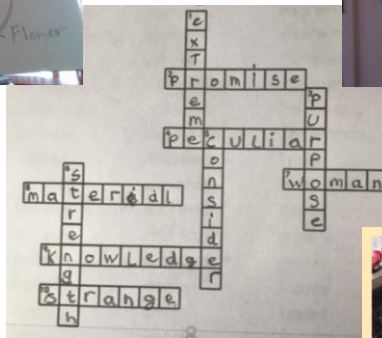
Hello Orchard,

As always, I am so impressed with all of you Orchard. You are putting so much effort into each of your learning tasks and I love to receive them. It is fantastic we can continue learning the same topics we would have if we were all in school. I have chosen some of your learning to show off at random as there are so many excellent examples of what you have been doing. I am so proud of all of you, keep up the brilliant work. Miss O'Brien 😊



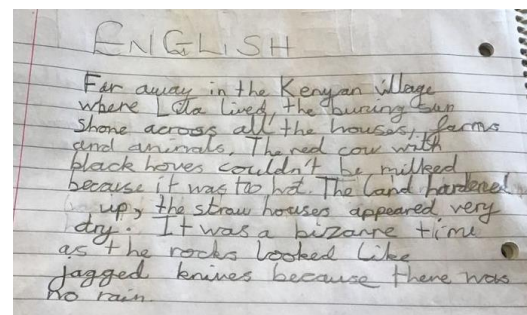
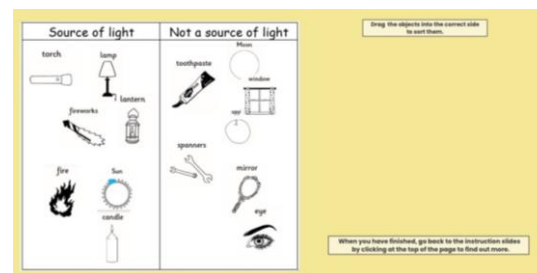
Write the names of the shapes in the boxes and then write some of the properties.

Shape	Name of the shape (2D/3D)	Properties
	square (2D)	4 vertices 4 sides
	Triangle (2D)	3 sides 3 vertices
	Rectangle (2D)	4 vertices 4 sides
	circle (2D)	no sides no vertices
	cube (3D)	6 faces 12 edges 8 vertices 8 corners
	cuboid (3D)	6 sides
	Pentagon (2D)	5 sides 5 corners
	cylinder (3D)	no sides no corners
	hexagon (2D)	6 sides 6 corners
	square based pyramid (3D)	4 sides 4 corners



**They shared the stone soup. The man knew the ingredients and the woman made the soup. Sharing meant exchanging knowledge and skills so they could have a meal together.**

**The moral of the story is that things are better when we share.**





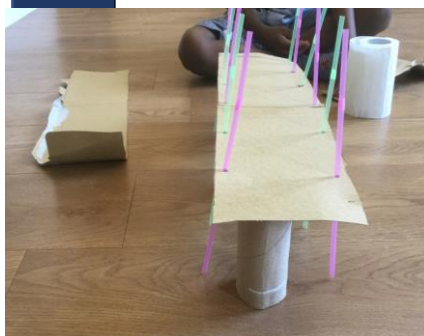
# Haffydown Class

## HOME LEARNING

Hi Haffydown,

I hope you all had a wonderful half term break. It has been so lovely to see so many of you log back into Seesaw to carry on with our learning this half term. We have lots of exciting learning coming up.

I must say, I was very impressed with the responses to the Design and Technology challenge I set for you to do last week. You were challenged to build a bridge using materials from home such as lolly sticks, straws, cardboard or any other materials. Your bridges needed to be able to support the weight of a toy car/ other small object. Look at these amazing designs! I think we have some future architects in the making. If you want to build a brilliant bridge like these, then you still can! Send me a photo or video on Seesaw so I can see your work.



Miss Keen 😊 x



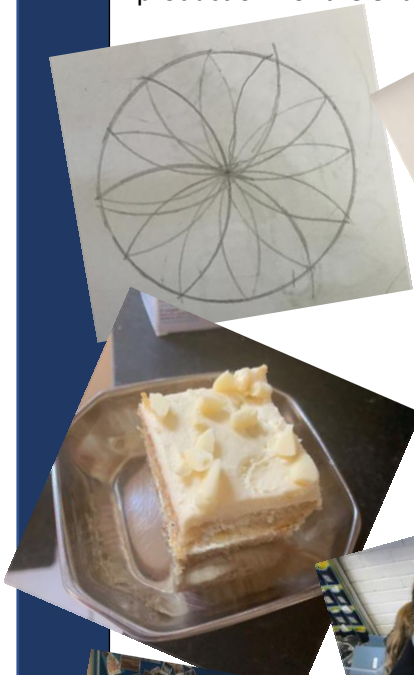
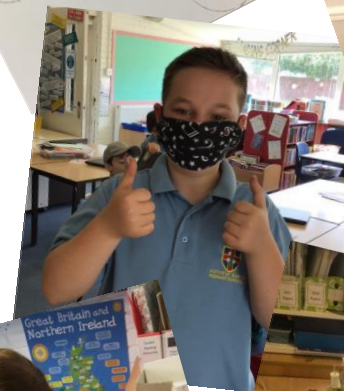
# Danes Class

Hi Danes,

How lovely it has been to have most of Year Six back in school. It seems very strange in the classroom with so many children missing and also strange that we have to keep in our own 'bubble' without mixing with the other children who are in school. So, Danes class – we have those of you who are still learning at home; others who attend the key worker group in school and the Year Six children in school. Somehow though, we are all still learning together, enjoying books together and making great progress. I am very proud of each and every one of you. I am really looking forward to seeing you all again – whenever that may be!

In school, Year Six have certainly been busy. They have been practising their skills on the sewing machines – first of all making face masks and then designing and making their own cushions. In maths, they are completing an enrichment unit all about circles (this has included learning how to use a pair of compasses accurately) and in English they are completing a secondary school transition unit. Alongside all this, they are also completing much of the home learning set for the rest of the class and working on a new style 'production' for the end of term!

Ruby has her new school uniform – all ready for Marriotts next term.



Stay safe Danes,  
Thinking of you all,  
Remember that we are still a class,  
We are still working together,  
I am here for you all.

Love  
Mrs Branagan x

### **A Thought from Reverend Jenny**

Challenging thoughts from Bishop Philip North about people's need to breathe justice and peace, linking Covid 19, George Floyd and Pentecost...

<https://viamedia.news/2020/06/07/we-cant-go-back-to-breathlessness/>

The difference that Jesus makes (adapted part 2)

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, that war and destruction have come to stay forever.

This is true: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, in whom authority shall rest, and whose name will be Prince of Peace.

It is not true that our dreams of liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and its history...

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything.

This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young people shall see visions and your old folk shall dream dreams.